Presence of diamond mines in Andhra Pradesh

843. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether presence of diamond mines has been found in Krishna, Guntur, Cuddapah and Prakasam districts in Andhra Pradesh by Geological Survey of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when, mining operations are likely to be started in these mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) No. Sir. Geological Survey of India (GSI) a subordinate office under this Ministry has not located any diamond mines in Krishna, Guntur, Cuddapah and Prakasam Districts in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

Foreign capital investment in mining sector

†844. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign capital investment has been approved in the mining sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether high class technology has been introduced in the mining sector after getting approval for the capital investment, and if so, in what manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c) The Government has liberalized its Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy in the mining sector which allows foreign equity holding upto 100%, on the automatic route for all minerals (except diamonds and precious stones). This covers exploration, mining, mineral processing and metallurgy. In the case of diamonds and precious stones,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.